



## Special points of interest:

- Services to veterans
- Job training

*Timely Topics*  
**Winter/Spring  
2013**

## Supporting Returning Servicemen

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, many Michigan National Guard men and women and those who served in other U.S. forces are returning to their families.

Many are in need of medical services, mental health support and job search assistance.

Information on these topics is vital to their suc-

cessful return to their lives. The following articles collect some of the offerings designed to ease this transition.



## VA and DMVA


The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at [http://www.va.gov/landing2\\_vetsrv.htm](http://www.va.gov/landing2_vetsrv.htm) outlines a broad range of programs and services provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon honorable discharge from active military service, and certain benefits require service during wartime. It links to booklets, such as the [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet](#), to get veterans started in the application process. It includes telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for specific needs.

Health care, disability compensation, GI Bill, voca-



tional rehabilitation, pension and more are also covered on their pages.

Note that a private organization, Veterans Affairs Services (VAS), is NOT affiliated with the VA and is gathering veterans IDs and personal information and may sometimes be violating the law.

Closer to home, the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs helps veterans connect to information on local resources, with county contact lists and links to state and federal benefit information. Go to <http://www.mi.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362---,00.html> for more information. 

### Michigan Veterans

as of 9/30/2012

Total:	680,417
Wartime Veterans:	497,418
Gulf War:	131,384
Vietnam Era:	253,322
Korean Conflict:	77,917
World War II:	48,142
Peacetime:	182,998
Female:	50,324
Male:	630,093

Source: National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics 2/2013  
[http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)

Call us for all your information needs!  
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Phone Hours: Mon – Fri 8 - 5; Building Hours: Mon – Fri 10 - 5



## Library of Michigan

P.O. Box 30007  
702 W. Kalamazoo St  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: 517-373-1300  
E-mail: [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov)  
<http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>



# Re-entering the Workforce


Whether a returning serviceman or servicewoman chooses to go directly back into the workforce or to go back to school, the Library of Michigan has tools that can help. **Job & Career Accelerator™** combines everything needed for a successful job search in an easy-to-use online application. With this job-hunting system, users can:

- Explore detailed information on over 1,000 different occupations
- Match interests and skills with the career that's best for the user
- Search over five million up-to-the-minute local and national job postings
- Create professional resumes and cover letters
- Practice and master interviewing skills
- Get invaluable tips and advice every step of the way—from initial search to accepting an offer
- Organize and track job-search progress all in one place

**Job & Career  
Accelerator™**  
**Find A Job!**

## Free Legal Help for Vets

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and the American Bar Association Young Attorneys Division have partnered to bring *Project Salute* to Michigan. With *Project Salute*, UDM law students crisscross the state in RVs converted into mobile law offices, providing free legal advice to low-income veterans. The students get an appreciation for the social benefits of pro bono service. Learn more at <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/index.php/what-is-project-salute>.

Those wishing to brush up on math or reading/writing skills for school or work will benefit from the practice tests in **Learning Express**. This interactive, online, learning platform of academic and licensing/certification practice tests, elementary level testing for math and reading. A tutorial course series designed to help all learners succeed on the tests they must pass includes immediate scoring, complete answer explanations, and an individualized analysis of practice test results. Whether it's the GED, College entrance or civil service exam that is needed, it is the  place to go!

Link to both resources via <http://mel.org>

Also of interest: Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)

<http://www.dol.gov/vets>



## Helping the Kids



The Michigan Department of Education recognizes that the special circumstances of military-connected children can result in unique needs, and in response has compiled the following resources for teachers and school administrators –

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5236-252140--,00.html>

### Check out previous issues of *Timely Topics*:

Who's Counting? - Spring 2012

Food Safety — Fall 2011

Ask Us Anything — June 2011

Michigan Backgrounder for Kids+ — Spring 2006

And More at:

[michigan.gov/lmtimelytopics](http://michigan.gov/lmtimelytopics)

## Scholarships, Loans & Grants



### U.S. Dependent Education Funding –

<http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits-book/2012-Federal-benefits-ebook-final.pdf>

### Other:

<http://www.educationmoney.com/veterans.html>

### AMVETS Scholarship Program

<http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/>

### Army Emergency Relief

<http://www.aerhq.org/>  
Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private non-profit organization with the primary mission of providing financial assistance to

Army Soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need.

(Last checked 2/5/13)

### FederalGrantsWire Military Grants and Loans

<http://www.federalgrantswire.com/military-service-federal-grants.html>

54 listings of grants and loans related to military service from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

(Last checked 2/5/13)

### Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grants

[http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366\\_10871-44121--,00.html](http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_10871-44121--,00.html)  
Temporary assistance granted for emergencies

or hardships is available to eligible wartime veterans, and their families, residing in the state. MVTF cannot provide assistance for long-term problems or chronic financial difficulties. Apply through the MVTF county committee serving their county of residence. All applications are investigated, deliberated, and decided in confidence. The MVTF does not provide loans under the temporary assistance program.

(Last checked 2/5/13)



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